



DAVID T C DAVIES MP
Member for Monmouth

Please reply to:
The Grange
16 Maryport Street
Usk
Monmouthshire
NP15 1AB

Date: 8 June 2020
Our Ref: DD4290
Your Ref:

Vaughan Gething MS
Minister for Health and Social Services
Welsh Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Vaughan

I write on behalf of a significant number of constituents who have contacted me regarding their concerns for the dental industry and welfare of dental patients in Wales.

A number of dentists have told me they are worried patients will be left in severe pain because adhering to Welsh Government guidance means they are unable to offer a full service until 2021. This could result in many patients having to face months of taking prescribed painkillers and antibiotics or simply having to put up with toothache.

I understand the rules in Wales state dental surgery using a drill cannot be undertaken until 2021 due to a perceived risk of aerosol generated procedures spreading Covid-19. However, more than one dentist has assured me this concern is unfounded; dentists are trained in preventing infection, as well as the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and have detailed measures in place to implement strict social distancing in surgeries.

The plan to not reinstate routine assessment and care in Wales until January 2021 is at odds with England, whose dentists are content they have found a way to ensure dental surgery is safe and where practices are reopening from today.

I would be grateful if you could personally step in and consider the reopening of dental surgeries **as a matter of urgency** in order to prevent patients suffering needless pain and to avoid a long-term oral health crisis.

Yours ever

David T C Davies MP

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